

Visiting U.S. House delegation confers with Assad in Damascus

DAMASCUS, Aug. 10 (R). — A visiting U.S. House of Representatives delegation today reviewed with Syrian President Hafez Assad the general Middle East situation, a presidential spokesman said. He said discussions covered "future prospects in the light of current efforts to achieve a just peace and Israeli obstacles hampering such moves." Mr. Richard Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to Syria, attended the meeting.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

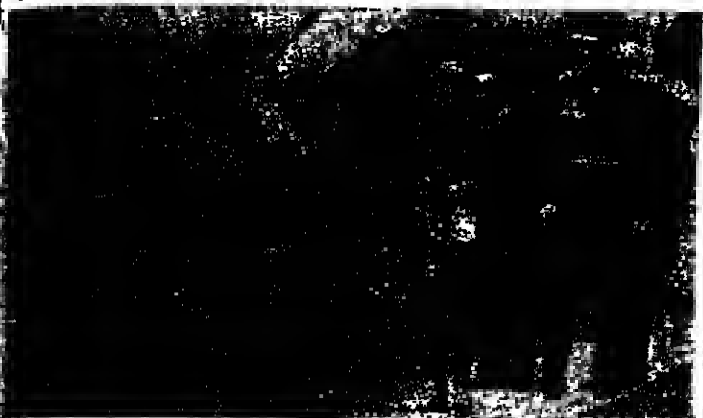
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Northern Ireland greets Queen Elizabeth with riots, castle reception



SAFE LANDING — Queen Elizabeth faces the easy part of her visit to strife-torn Northern Ireland as she steps down from the helicopter which brought her to Hillsborough Castle Wednesday. Jubilant children waving union jacks greet her. (AP wirephoto).

BELFAST, Aug. 10 (R). — Northern Ireland received Queen Elizabeth today with rioting, hand-to-hand fighting, bombing and a quiet reception in a castle.

The rioting raged in the centre of Belfast only hours after the Queen was whisked by helicopter to Hillsborough Castle, 25 kms. from the city, to start her two-day silver jubilee visit. British troops fired plastic bullets and baton charged about 1,000 Irish Republicans hurling bottles and stones. Seven people were hurt, none seriously, in a bomb blast at a city junction.

The rioting started when members of the Provisional Sinn Féin, political wing of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA), and other IRA supporters staged a protest march against the visit and clashed with police.

The blast was near the rallying point for about 3,000 Republican marchers who were heading towards it behind a banner proclaiming the royal visitor "Queen of Death".

Another banner, referring to the eight years of violence in the province, said "1969-77, 1,000 dead."

The illegal march was organized as a demonstration of "abhorrence and resentment" against the Queen's visit.

Later, a force of 700 police and troops in riot gear and backed by armoured cars blocked the marchers' route and rioting broke out.

Police said about 1,000 marchers armed themselves with bricks and stones from nearby derelict houses and bombarded the security forces.

As a young girl demonstration was dragged screaming to a police car and her mother ran behind shouting: "My daughter, my daughter," a Republican eye-witness pointed to the scene. "That's what the visit of their Queen means to me," he said.

Guerrillas made their defiance clear right from the start today. A car bomb, carefully timed to coincide with the Queen's helicopter landing, exploded in the main square at Crossmaglen, a Republican border town to the north of Hillsborough Castle.

It rocked a concrete army post.

Determined to make the controversial trip, the Queen sailed into Belfast waters aboard the royal yacht Britannia guarded by a destroyer and a submarine.

Northern Ireland was close to martial law, with 2,000 troops and police mounting the biggest security guard in the eight years of guerrilla and sectarian fighting.

Flying by helicopter for the first time, the Queen used a mode of transport normally considered too dangerous for

her but regarded as the only reasonably safe method in Northern Ireland.

For several days rioting and sniper attacks on British patrols built up tension, in both Catholic and Protestant areas.

Yesterday, a British army patrol shot dead a Catholic youth they said was hurling petrol bombs, and in retaliation an IRA sniper killed a soldier from the same battalion as the patrol.

Despite the tightly-stretched nerves, Protestants, who are fiercely loyal to the Queen, sought to give her a welcome.

The working class backstreets of their areas flew a display of bunting and British flags. But there will be no friendly "walkabouts" by the Queen.

At Hillsborough Castle, 2,000 carefully selected guests arrived to meet the Queen after submitting to rigorous searches in which police even opened match boxes.

The Queen conferred honours on several leaders of Northern Ireland at an investiture at the castle.

Observers believed that the garden party -- one of two to be held during the Queen's two-day visit here -- threatened to confirm more than ever in the eyes of the Catholic minority that she is "Queen of the Protestants".

Since the Queen's yacht, Britannia, anchored in Belfast Lough this morning, the streets of Belfast, patrolled unceasingly by the army, have been virtually empty. Nevertheless Queen Elizabeth was flown back to the yacht this evening to spend the night aboard Britannia, for security reasons.

The focal point of anxiety for security chiefs is at Coleraine, 80 kms. north of Hillsborough.

Yesterday, guerrillas exploded a one pound bomb buried in the garden of a university there where the Queen will spend six hours tomorrow.

Army chiefs, fearing a spectacular action by the IRA urgently investigated how the tight security screen round the university was pierced.

The IRA, which accuses the Queen of "brinkmanship" by visiting Northern Ireland, has sent many sympathisers into hiding to avoid detention.

Prince Philip, the Queen's husband, joined her at the castle after a brief visit to a Belfast shipyard.

Tonight, there will be a reception aboard the royal yacht before it sails for Coleraine.

Today the Britannia anchored well out of mortar range from the shore and frogmen checked the hull for possible limpet mines which the IRA has said it possesses.

Staying aboard today were the Queen's youngest sons, Princes Andrew and Edward, aged 17 and 13.

The battle for the road between Addis Ababa and Asmara, the Eritrean provincial capital, is being fought between 10 and 15 kms. south of Asmara, EPLF spokesman Andemichael Kahsay told Reuters.

He said Ethiopia had sent in a combination of its "peasant army" regular troops and its highly-trained "Flame Brigade" to recapture the town of Decamere, which the EPLF says it seized on July 6.

The spokesman added that Ethiopian forces also tried to attack EPLF units on another road leading to Decamere but were forced back.

He said about 10,000 Ethiopian troops were involved in the two battles.

If they recaptured Decamere, the Ethiopians were apparently aiming to seize control of Saganeiti, further south on the same road to Addis Ababa, which the EPLF says it captured last Wednesday.

The spokesman said the EPLF took more than 100 Ethiopian prisoners and seized about 200 Soviet-made Kalashnikov and Semenov rifles.

A Rome spokesman for the second major Eritrean insurgent group, the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), also said fighting was under way in the Asmara area. He gave no details.

Both spokesmen said they had no confirmation of a claim that the third insurgent group, the Ethiopian Liberation Front (ELF-PLF), had captured Agordat, a town on a road from Sudan to Asmara.

Speaking at a press conference during what he called "a transit stopover", Dr. Jama Barre said Ethiopian forces

from outside Africa. "I cannot comment on that. You will know when they arrive," he added.

He said they had been invited by Ethiopian head of state, Lt.-Col. Mengistu Haile-Mariam.

"Where they will be located, we do not know," he said.

"Whether they will join the fighting in Eritrea or fight against the Western Somalia Liberation Front (WSLF) or whether they will be there just to keep Mengistu in power, we don't really know."

"But we know that foreign troops are on their way to Ethiopia."

"When they arrive I think it will be no secret," the ambassador said. "The number involved is very large -- we believe between 5,000 and 9,000."

In Mogadishu, an Information Ministry spokesman charged that Ethiopia used a mediation meeting arranged by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Gabon "as a platform for false accusations against Somalia and as a cover-up for the intended open aggression against the Somali Democratic Republic."

The spokesman said it was clear that Ethiopia's leaders intended to wage war against Somalia in a desperate attempt to divert attention from serious internal economic and political chaos and the liberation wars being waged by the WSLF and in Eritrea.

In Geneva, Somali Foreign Minister Abdurrahman Jama Barre said today forces of the Western Somali Liberation Front now controlled 90 per cent of the Ogaden desert.

Speaking at a press conference during what he called "a transit stopover", Dr. Jama Barre said Ethiopian forces

were left in control of only three towns in the region.

Dr. Jama Barre accused Ethiopian government of "killings, massacre, terror and oppression" against "innocent people under the grip of Ethiopian colonial rule."

Answering questions, he rejected as "completely false" Ethiopian allegations that Somali regular forces were taking part in the Ogaden fighting.

The battle was being fought only by the WSLF, he declared.

The foreign minister said the Somali government was giving the WSLF "moral and material support" but declined to say what form the material aid took.

Addis Ababa denies

Ethiopia today denied the Somali claim that up to 9,000 foreign troops are on their way to help Ethiopian forces in the Ogaden desert fighting.

Addis Ababa Radio reported, quoting a statement from the Ethiopian Ministry of Information and National Guidance.

Prince Hassan expressed the appreciation of the people and the government of Jordan for Pakistan's support and backing for Arab and Islamic causes.

On his way back to Amman the Prince stopped over in Bahrain where he met with the Bahraini prime minister and Bahrain's crown prince.

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ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL SHA'B in Wednesday's editorial, entitled "The two longest days in the history of the Palestinian cause," said that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has started the most crucial stage of his tour in his talks with Israeli leaders. The two days he will spend in Israel are, in effect, the two longest days in the history of the Palestinian cause because they constitute what, most probably, is the final test for Israeli peace intentions, as well as a test for the seriousness of the American peace effort. We do not yet know, the paper said, what the Arab leaders have told Mr. Vance, but what was said will stand or fall on the outcome of his talks in Israel. For, it is after these talks that the U.S. position will become clear and the results of the tour will be assessed by the Arab leaders who will meet Mr. Vance again to hear from him what Israel had to say.

AL AKHBAR questioned the real reasons behind Israeli "concern" about the Christians

in south Lebanon. The paper said that Israel is using this issue simply as a way out should the current Middle East peace effort produce enough international pressure demanding a withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. There are "hardly 200 Christians" in south Lebanon, which makes it untenable for Israel to raise this hue and cry over their fate. Israel, the paper said, is simply keeping hold of an option in hand so that should it find itself in a difficult position would induce an explosion in the south of Lebanon and, through war, create a new status quo which would need "years of negotiations, discussions and resolutions" to bring back the situation to "what it was before the new territory was occupied in 1977 or 1978." The shock of the recent Shtoura agreement which ended the war in Lebanon has caused Israel "to lose its nerve" and it wants to retain an explosive point in the Lebanese south to serve as a pretext for a new war should this be needed.

Six million Aleppo pines to adorn hills above King Talal Dam

AMMAN (J.T.). — The planting of some six million Aleppo pines begins this autumn in Wadi Zarga, on the hillsides above King Talal Dam, as part of a massive government reforestation project.

The work of preparing the soil is now taking place on the barren site, which covers more than 1,000 hectares. The project will provide much needed jobs in an area of relatively high unemployment.

Erosion prevention

The reforestation is planned as a contribution to the timber industry, which sup-



An example of the Aleppo pine, which will cover the hillsides around King Talal Dam.

plies both fuel and raw material for the building industry. The planting is also designed to prevent silting of King Talal Dam, a process that is already taking place, reduce soil erosion and help conserve water supplies.

The sum of JD 180,000 has been provided for the Wadi Zarga project by Britain's Ministry of Overseas Development as part of its capital aid programme to Jordan. Britain recently agreed to provide capital aid and technical cooperation of between JD 6 and JD 7 million for the three-year

period from 1976 to 1980. Britain's contribution for the years 1973-75 totalled JD 6.25 million in the form of technical cooperation and capital loans allocated to new projects.

Ancient oak forest

In London, Donald Davidson, forestry adviser to the ministry, said: "Britain has been helping forestry development in Jordan for the past 30 years. This area was originally covered by oak forest which persisted until the early years of this century. Only a few remnants are left after centuries of gradual despoliation. The building of the railway, which used wood for fuel, the steady increase in population and the presence of herds of goats and camels are all partly responsible for the disappearance of this forest."

"The area has a long, dry, rainless summer and the Aleppo pine has been chosen because it stands up well to these conditions. Special methods of planting will be used to enable the roots of the trees to gather moisture from deep down in the soil."

Trained in Cyprus

Mr. Davidson said that many members of Jordan's forestry staff had been trained at the Forestry School in Cyprus with British financial aid.

Four years ago British experts were asked to assist in the reforestation programme by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. "We were pleased to provide JD 85,000 in capital aid in 1972 to cover equipment, the nursery work in raising trees and an earlier reforestation project in Wadi Zarga," Mr. Davidson said.

The JD 180,000 provided by Britain for the new scheme is to cover the cost of equipment, roadmaking and transporting plants and other materials to the site.

Agreement signed on loan for refinery expansion

AMMAN (JNA). — An agreement was signed with a consortium of European and Arab banks here Wednesday to lend JD 33 million to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company to expand its Zarqa plant.

The expansion project will boost production from one million to 3.5 million tons a year to cover Jordan's fuel needs up to 1985.

Various units will be installed: A distillation unit with a capacity of 6,200 tons a day; units to produce 225 tons of butane gas a day, 20 tons of hydrogen a day, 100 tons of asphalt a day; a unit to upgrade 1,000 tons of petrol a day; and additional storage tanks.

The JD 65 million expansion project was started in 1975.

The agreement was signed for the consortium by Mr. Abdul Hamid Shuman, President of the Arab Bank, and to the refinery by Mr. Mohammad Budeir, Vice President of the petroleum company, and Mr. Hashem Dabbas, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and member of the company's Board of Administration.

Biologists end course at Yarmouk University

IRBID (JNA). — A group of Arab biologists completed a training course in biology teaching methods at Yarmouk University Wednesday.

The course was organized by Yarmouk University in cooperation with the Arab Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (AECSCO). Certificates were handed out by AECSCO Science Director Dr. Muhieddine Saber.

Dr. Saber thanked Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan for helping to organize the course. The President of Yarmouk University, Dr. Adnan Badran, said that the university had allocated a number of seats to Arab students. It will always be ready to host seminars of Arab educational experts, he added.

Participants in the course included biologists from Jordan, Kuwait, Libya and the United Arab Emirates.

Iraq to have 50-dunum plot in Aqaba free zone

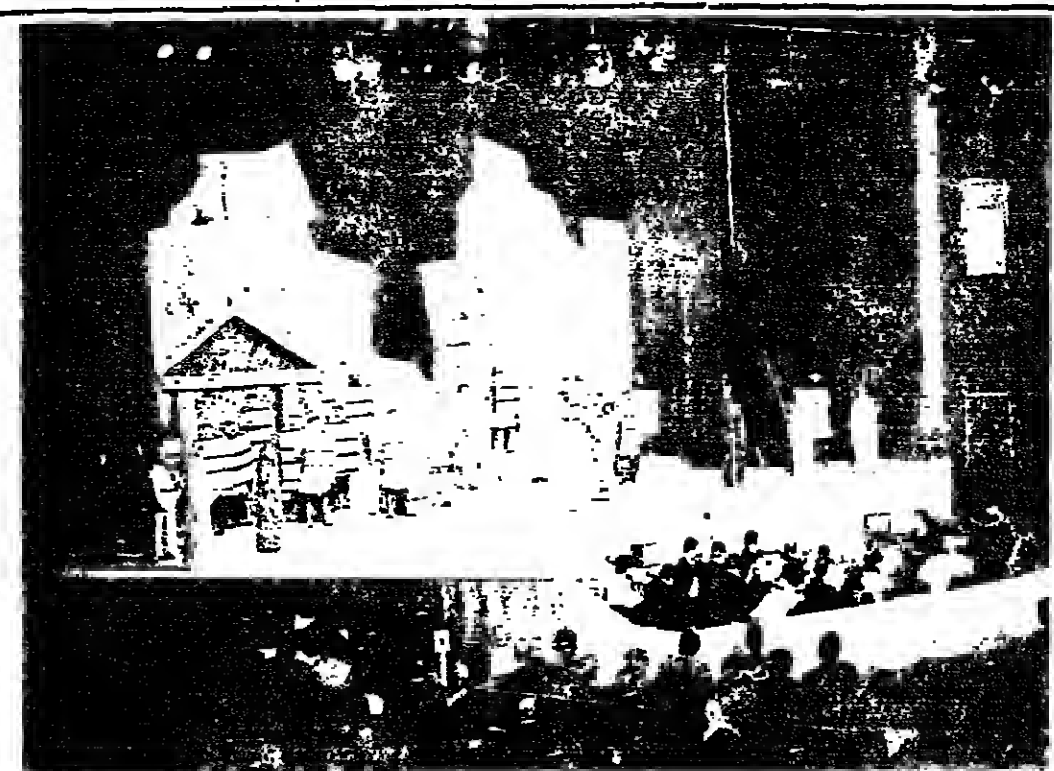
AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Finance Mohammad Dabbas returned here at the end of a four-day visit to Iraq during which he held talks on bilateral relations.

Agreements were signed to increase Iraqi exports via the Port of Aqaba, to provide Iraq with a 50-dunum piece of land in the Aqaba free zone for 10 years to store goods imported through the Port of Aqaba and to activate tourism between the two countries.

Iraqi minister leaves
Iraqi Under-Secretary of Public Works and Housing, Mr. Shaker Ahmad, left here for Iraq Wednesday after two days of talks between Jordan, Syria and Iraq to discuss the effect of overloaded lorries on Arab roads.

In a statement prior to his departure from Amman airport, Mr. Ahmad said that the meeting recommended the establishment of stations on Arab roads to check loads carried by lorries and ban their entry to any of the three countries if their load exceeds fixed limits.

Another minister at the road conference, Syrian Minister of Transport Omar Siba'i, accompanied by Minister of Public Works Said Bino, made an extensive tour of road projects in southern Jordan Wednesday.



Dramatism surrounds the proceedings at Petra -- or rather the Palace of Culture, where the first performance of the musical "Petra" took place Wednesday. The starring role, the queen of the rose-red city, was played and sung by Lebanese superstar Feyruz.

MESSAGE FROM KING DELIVERED TO ANWAR SADAT

ALEXANDRIA, Aug. 10 (JNA). — Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt, Mr. Zouqan Hindawi, today delivered a written message to President Anwar Sadat from His Majesty King Hussein. The message deals with the points discussed by Jordan with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Mr. Hindawi told reporters. It also outlines Jordanian remarks on and amendments to U.S. proposals for a Middle East peace settlement, he added.

The message explains Jordan's positions stated during talks with Mr. Vance. They conform with those adopted by the confrontation states and are based on two fundamental principles: The necessity for a total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the guaranteeing of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including its right to self-determination in its homeland, Mr. Hindawi concluded.

UNRWA meets here to discuss year's work

AMMAN (JNA). — The Consultative Council of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) met at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel Wednesday to debate the commissioner general's report on its work over the past year.

The meeting was attended by representatives of member-states -- Belgium, France, Japan, Turkey, Britain and the United States -- in addition to delegates from Arab countries hosting Palestine refugees, that is Jordan, Egypt and Syria.

The head of the Syrian delegation, Mr. Ahmad Abdul Haddad, said the council's second meeting in Amman comes at a time when intensive efforts are being made in numerous quarters to reach a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian issue.

which threatens the security and stability of the world as a whole.

The Syrian delegation referred to the effective role played by member-states in trying to reach a just solution that will spare the region and the tragedy of world war, instability and insecurity.

Mr. Abdul Hadi recalled that member-states had issued statements condemning the Israeli policy of aggression and annexation of land by force.

The Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Development and Reconstruction, Abdul Rahim Jarar, who leads Jordan's delegation, said after the meeting that Arab host countries have put forward their remarks on the commissioner general's report.

He said these remarks will help UNRWA continue its humanitarian duties, as decided by the U.N. General Assembly.



U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering Wednesday signs an agreement to supply Jordan with 100,000 tons of wheat in fiscal year 1977. Chairman of the National Planning Council Dr. Hanna Odeh sits to his left.

U.S. to finance purchase of 100,000 tons of wheat

AMMAN (JNA). — The United States will finance the purchase of 100,000 tons of wheat worth \$10.3 million in U.S. fiscal year 1977, according to an amended agreement signed at the National Planning Council Wednesday.

Jordan will repay the U.S. over a 20 year period at an interest rate of two per cent in the first and second years and three per cent in the remaining years.

The Jordanian government will sell the wheat to local flour mills and consumers. Proceeds will help finance development projects, particularly those increasing agricultural output.

The amendment was signed for Jordan by President of the National Planning Council Dr. Hanna Odeh, and for the U.S. by Ambassador, Thomas Pickering.

The original agreement provided a total of 50,000 tons of wheat worth \$4.8 million.

Government urged to give UNICEF JD 1,000

AMMAN (JNA). — A committee set up to prepare for International Children's Year to be held in 1979, Wednesday called on the government to donate JD 1,000 to UNICEF as Jordan's contribution to child welfare throughout the world.

It also recommended the establishment of a national society to take care of children and organize a children's week in 1979, besides building playgrounds and parks.

It urged the media to produce children's programmes, the National Lottery Committee to organize a special issue

to finance children's projects and the post office to issue a commemorative stamp in 1979.

It recommended that private companies consider the need for nurseries for their female employees.

The committee, which includes representatives from the Ministries of Education, Information, Health and Labour, finally recommended that contests for the best children's books and songs be held among writers and composers and children's toys exempted from customs and their prices fixed.

Potash project team returns after U.S. financial talks

AMMAN (JNA). — The Chairman of the Arab Potash Company, Mr. Ali Khasawneh, and a company delegation returned here Tuesday at the end of a two-week visit to the United States during which he held talks with officials of the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the consultants for the potash project.

The talks covered future plans for the project, in addition to the administrative structure when potash production starts in 1981, Mr. Khasawneh said. Technical and economic aspects of the project were also studied, he added. These will be submitted to a conference of finance houses to be held here in December, he added.

A final draft agreement for the implementation of the second and final phase of the project was drawn up during the talks, Mr. Khasawneh said. A programme to speed up work will be implemented during the coming two weeks, he added. This programme includes the opening of roads on the site of the project near Safi on the Dead Sea to facilitate

Barakat meets Swiss ambassador for tourist chat

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Ghaleb Barakat Wednesday received the Swiss ambassador to Jordan to discuss bilateral tourism relations.

Mr. Barakat also received a delegation from the Abu Dhabi Investment Corporation to put them in the picture on investment possibilities in tourist projects.

The Swiss ambassador to Jordan and the Abu Dhabi delegation later met Director of Tourism, Michael Hamarneh.

transportation, in particular on the Lisan A 25-kms-network of roads will be completed in five months, he said.

The Arab Potash Company has completed specifications for the construction of a housing estate on site, the chairman added. A total of 700 housing units will be built there at a cost of JD 15 million, he concluded.

Cabinet approves Bulgaria agreement

AMMAN (JNA). — The Cabinet, in its Wednesday session, approved the economic accord concluded between Jordan and Bulgaria.

The accord was signed during the recent visit by Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Najmeddine Dajani to Bulgaria. It also approved the provision of technical expertise by Bulgaria.

The economic accord deals with ways to develop economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

The Cabinet also agreed to send Judge Dawud Abu Ghazaleh to a legal seminar organized by the American Bar Association in cooperation with the U.S. government.

The seminar will be held in a number of U.S. cities between Oct. 6 and Nov. 14.

A public health law was also approved by the Cabinet. It bans smoking in public places and forces cigarette companies to write "Smoking is Unhealthy" on every pack of cigarettes, whether produced locally or imported. The law also bans the production of sweets in the shape of cigarettes.

News centres spotlight attempt to create Arab media system

The Arab States Broadcasting Union established a news exchange system in July 1974 to break the monopoly grip the Western world had on the news media. The union's Secretary General, Mr. Salah Abdul Kader, recently in Amman for a non-aligned information meet, told the Jordan Times how far the system had progressed in its three years of existence and how the non-aligned bloc can benefit from the experience of the union in its endeavours to combat the power of the international news agencies.

By Lina Gress
Special to the Jordan Times

The Arab States Broadcasting Union has set up three centres in the Arab World to ensure an effective exchange and dissemination to the outside world of news items and programmes of a purely Arab nature, Mr. Abdul Kader stated.

"The era when the only film to reach the non-Arabic audience was that supplied by the international agencies has come to an end. From now on the Arab countries have their own voice in the international radio and television world," he stressed.

The three centres are dispersed over the region so that the entire Arab World is covered. A centre in Amman serves the Mashraq area, that is Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Sudan; the Rabat centre covers Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia; and the Kuwait centre homes in on Kuwait itself, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Aden and the United Arab Emirates.

Each centre collects and distributes information within its own area, and exchanges it with other centres, or with foreign news agencies and broadcasting organisations.

Mr. Abdul Kader stressed that there should be a regular exchange among ASBU members and with other broadcasting unions and countries that are associate members of the union.

ASBU members are developing a successful exchange system, in spite of limited facilities. The Amman centre, for example, receives a daily package of television news from Europe through Baqa'a satellite station.

Jordan Television uses such items in its news bulletins. It then makes copies of this material, adds local items, and sends the whole package by air or car to neighbouring countries served by the Mashraq centre. The following day, the tapes are sent back with recordings of the local news programmes of those countries.

Before this system was organised, news from other parts of the world took four days to arrive. Now there is only a 24-hour delay for those without direct satellite links, Mr. Abdul Kader stated.

Special radio and television programmes on one particular theme are also produced by each ASBU member.

Copies of each programme

Mr. Abdul Kader emphasized that problems are gradually being overcome. Some of the countries concerned are planning or are already establishing microwave links, which will eventually provide an electronic exchange network. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Qatar and Sudan have constructed earth stations to receive material directly.

Mr. Abdul Kader said that the union did not wait for such facilities to get the exchange started.

A programme and news exchange system for the 88 non-aligned countries could have a similar start, he stressed. Regional centres could be set up in the non-aligned countries -- in accordance with their geographical distribution.

These centres could operate like ASBU regional centres, linked by a major coordinat-



The Baqa'a satellite station: A vital link in an Arab information system battling against the Western news agencies.

are distributed to individual Arab countries so that each country receives the programmes of the others. This ensures the exchange of culture among ASBU members. The use of classical Arabic makes this easier.

The union will also exchange programmes with associate European and Asian members. In this case, the language barrier will have to be overcome. In the meantime, programmes will have to be confined to music, variety, folklore and documentaries.

Each centre is in a city that has an earth station directly linked to a satellite for the reception and transmission of programmes. In turn, the centre serves the other countries within its own area using land, air or microwave links.

One of the biggest handicaps is the lack of air flights at the times necessary for exchanges.

ing centre, he continued.

The experience of the Arab World could be adopted by the non-aligned countries, Mr. Abdul Kader explained. But it would be preferable for the non-aligned countries to start regular exchanges either on a bilateral or multilateral basis involving three or four countries only. Later they can organise their regional centres, he pointed out.

To establish cooperation among the non-aligned countries, it is of primary importance that a country should get to know the technical and administrative policies of non-aligned broadcasting organisations, Mr. Abdul Kader stated.

Since ASBU members are also members of the non-aligned broadcasting movement, Arab states can provide information concerning its member states with the hope of initiating activity among the 88 non-aligned countries.

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Canadian Parliament orders end to strike

OTTAWA, Aug. 10 (R). — Parliament passed a law early today ordering the country's 2,200 air traffic controllers back to work three days after they walked out in a pay dispute.

Union and airline spokesmen forecast that air services, badly hit by the stoppage, would be restored later in the day. The bill outlawing the strike and imposing a pay settlement

became law after 12 hours of emergency debate in special sittings of the Commons and Senate.

Members of the Commons were flown to Ottawa aboard government aircraft to vote by 136 votes to 11 in favour of imposing a settlement in the pay dispute between the controllers and the government.

Mr. Jim Livingstone, President of the Canadian Air Traffic Controllers Association

(CATCA) said he would advise the men to obey the order to work normally.

The strike halted virtually all commercial air traffic in Canada and disrupted international flights. The country's major airlines said the stoppage was costing them \$1.5 million a day.

The Canadian Press News Agency said the government emergency legislation awarded the controllers wage increases averaging 7.4 per cent compared with the 12.6 per cent they demanded.

The strike has stranded thousands of passengers at the height of the holiday season and delayed postal services.

Israel eases foreign currency regulations

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Aug. 10 (R). — Israel today eased its stringent foreign currency regulations to allow people to maintain, for the first time, bank accounts with money received from abroad.

The Finance Ministry today issued new regulations to banks allowing Israelis to keep one-third of all foreign currency they had. The rest of the money would have to be converted to Israeli currency.

Before Israel's, other than authorised exporters, had to sell all foreign currency they had to the ministry.

The old regulations caused former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to step down from office in April when his wife Leah was found guilty of maintaining two bank accounts in the United States.

The new regulations are believed to be an attempt to encourage Israelis to bring in any foreign money they hold to help boost the country's foreign currency reserves.

The ministry listed three headings under which local foreign currency bank accounts can be held.

1. Those who earned money abroad or receive foreign currency as a present. They can now deposit one-third of the sum in the foreign currency, and the rest into Israeli money. Holders of such accounts would be able to draw up to \$1,000 a year for each member of the family.

2. Businessmen who are not recognised as exporters can now keep all the money they earn abroad and draw \$1,500 whenever they go abroad in addition to expenses.

3. Funds raised abroad for local institutions such as hospitals or schools can now be preserved in the original currency and drawn out of the bank without limits.

S. Europeans cooperate on space project

PARIS, Aug. 10 (AFP). — Researchers from France, Spain and Italy cooperated in the successful launch of a trans-Mediterranean balloon last Saturday, the French National Centre for Space Studies announced yesterday.

The balloon, 330,000 cubic metres in volume, carried a technologically-equipped gondola and a Spanish-designed experiment with a total weight of 650 kilos.

Launched at Trapani in Sicily, the balloon flew more than 20 hours at an altitude of 40 kms. to its scheduled destination in Andalusia, where the equipment was recovered.

The National Centre for Space Studies said monitoring stations in Sicily, the Balearic Islands and in southern Spain had permitted scientists to follow the flight, and added that technological and scientific research objectives had been completely attained.

Another balloon launching is planned this month with the two flights forming a prelude to an intensive effort by the scientific community. Scientists hope to increase the balloons' capacity to carry heavy equipment and to prolong the flights for longer-term experiments, which require longer-term exposure, in for instance the astronomical and biological fields.

The study centre said the balloons could unfold new possibilities in European space research.



OPERATES ON MUSCLE TENSION — By means of this "artificial hand", someone with an amputated arm can easily drink a glass of milk or reach for a piece of paper. Two small motors built into this forearm limb operate the thumb and fingers. The signals required to set the motors operating are provided by muscle tension. This means that the controlling of the limb's movements is effected via the brain just as in the case of a natural hand. Modern orthopaedic technology has made it possible for practically all natural movements to be copied. In Germany around 8,000 experts are engaged in constructing artificial limbs according to the latest technological findings.

No more Coca Cola in plastic bottles

ST. LOUIS, Missouri, Aug. 10 (AFP). — The court of appeals in Washington yesterday confirmed a temporary ban on selling Coca Cola in plastic bottles by the Monsanto firm making these bottles.

The court said that some components of plastics, such as acrylonitrile, could combine with the zinc and lead, in the long term, leading to congenital defects and other injuries.

About 1,000 workers lost their jobs at Hartford, Connecticut, Chicago and Baltimore, Maryland, and more than 15,000,000 empty bottles have been left in Monsanto warehouses as a result to the ban.

The Coca Cola Company began to sell its soft drink in plastic bottles in July 1975.

The firm has just bought another wine concern in accordance with its diversification policy. The latest purchase is

the Sterling of Callstoga vineyard in California, a company spokesman said. The price was not disclosed.

In January Coca Cola purchased the Taylor Wine Company, which had a turnover of \$59,600,000. The spokesman added that Taylor produced 4,500,000 cases of wine per year, while Sterling produced about 100,000 cases.

Iranian oil exports drop sharply

TEHRAN, Aug. 10 (AFP). — Iranian oil exports again fell sharply in July to 4,180,000 barrels a day average, the agency FARS reported yesterday.

This was 370,000 barrels lower than in June and more than one million barrels below the May figure. The July export average was almost as low as the January average of 4,120,000 barrels a day. The best figure this year was in May with more than 5,800,000.

Observers in Tehran were inclined to see the recent decline as the result of sluggish international demand along with the difference of view between the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and the Western oil majors.

The Western companies claim that Iran is selling them only heavy oil from Abadan, while it takes the light oil for itself.

Carter plans wheat price supports

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10 (AFP). — Faced with the first major wheat surplus since 1973, the Carter administration is planning to introduce price subsidies and measures to reduce production, sources said here yesterday.

Nearly half of the 1976 harvest of 58.4 million tons of wheat remains unsold and unusually high harvest yields are predicted for this fall.

The administration's plan envisages introducing price supports of \$3.10 per bushel to shore up the faltering price of wheat, now at about \$2.00 per bushel, the lowest in five years. The price supports would be included in the four-year agricultural plan to be submitted soon to the president.

A programme to limit the number of acres planted in wheat could be announced at the end of the month, sources said. Without being bind-

ing, the plan would provide that farmers refusing to reduce their wheat acreage would be deprived of the right to price supports and government subsidies.

The plan would suggest that the 82.5 million acres planted in wheat in 1976 be reduced by 10.5 million to 17.5 million acres. This would bring a harvest of about 60 million tons, sources said.

World wheat harvests in 1974 and 1975 wiped out the U.S.'s previous surplus. But world stocks had increased to 62 million tons by July, 1976, and this July were up to 108.2 million tons.

Experts have predicted that 1977-78 world production of wheat would reach 405.5 million tons, with consumption lagging behind at 398.5 million tons.

Times, Post criticise Lance's financial deals

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10 (AFP). — The New York Times and the Washington Post criticised in editorials yesterday the financial transactions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Burt Lance, when he headed an Atlanta bank.

"The more we learn about the personal and business financial deals of Burt Lance, the nation's budget director, the greater the burden of proof upon him that these were well within the bounds of propriety as well as law," The New York Times wrote.

The newspaper described the conditions of a \$2.6 million loan granted him by the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank as "generous in the view of some experienced businessmen."

The Washington Post meanwhile said that the "grey areas" in Burt Lance's highly complicated financial affairs have become several shades darker.

The newspaper said that "it may well turn out that Mr. Lance has done nothing illegal or, for a private businessman, wrong," but it asserted that the standards of morality applied to high government officials were different from those concerning businessmen.

It was up to Mr. Lance to prove that "he is not too encumbered to continue serving his old friend, the president," the Post said.

Two weeks ago a Senate committee on government affairs absolved Mr. Lance of any guilt in dubious financial transactions.

Last week, however, it was learned that the loan Mr. Lance received from Manufacturers Hanover Trust may have been linked to the National Bank of Georgia — presided by Mr. Lance — opening an interest-free account at the New York Bank.

The transactions are under investigation.

U.S. attorney general censures foreign 'blocking' legislation

CHICAGO, Aug. 10 (AFP). — Attorney General Griffin Bell has warned U.S. multinational companies that the Department of Justice will not hesitate to take anti-trust legal proceedings against them abroad.

In a speech to the American Bar Association, Mr. Bell also criticised some foreign governments which refuse to cooperate with American judicial authorities even though the latter assist the foreign states.

He declared that the British, West German, Canadian, Australian and Netherlands governments were among those which had passed "blocking" laws preventing persons residing on their territories from cooperating with American investigators.

Mr. Bell said that international cooperation was necessary to enable the Department of Justice to carry out its inquiries properly concerning the activities on international uranium and oil companies.

Mr. Bell said that "the refusal to cooperate may actually harm those who invoke prohibitions."

"There is a fundamental U.S. interest at stake when private businesses although foreign, get together to injure and perhaps

W. Germans buy room in U.S. Space Shuttle

BREMEN, West Germany, Aug. 10 (AFP). — The West German aeronautical firm Erno Raumfahrttechnik has bought a 400-kilo share of the payload in the U.S. space shuttle, a spokesman for Erno announced last night.

The Erno company, where the European space laboratory Spacelab is prepared for operation, is the first West German firm to buy space. It has paid \$40,000 for four containers and hopes to use them in the first shuttle tests between March 1978 and March 1980.

French company will build Iran 4 power stations

TEHRAN, Aug. 10 (R). — The French company Alsthom Atlantique has signed a contract to build four power stations in Iran, the government newspaper Rastakhiz said today.

It said the firm had already built 7 power stations in this country and over the next 20 years would construct 13 more including the four specified in the latest contract, the value of which was not given.

Last June three French firms including Alsthom Atlantique said they had won contract worth 10 billion francs (\$1.16 billion) to build two nuclear power stations in Iran.

New run would compel more Concorde flights

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10 (AFP). — The airline Braniff International considers that inauguration of a Dallas-Washington run by the Anglo-French Concorde will compel Air France and British Airways to increase the number of their trans-Atlantic Concorde flights, according to the latest issue of the weekly Aviation Week and Space Technology.

Braniff has asked for authorisation to operate a Dallas-Washington run by Concorde, but this has not yet been granted.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian fil	92.60/90
Saudi riyal	104.50/105.20
Syrian pound	81.30/80
Iraqi dinar	957.00/965.00
Kuwaiti dinar	1137.00/1142.00
Egyptian pound	465.00/471.00
Libyan dinar	720.00/727.00
UAE dirham	83.70/84.00
U.K. sterling	572.00/578.00
U.S. dollar	328.00/330.00
German mark	142.40/80
French franc	67.30/60
Swiss franc	137.70/137.10
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.30/50

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Libya, Tunisia begin agriculture talks

* LONDON, Aug. 10 (R). — Tunisia and the Libyan Jamahiriyyah have begun talks here on agricultural cooperation, the Libyan Arab Revolution News Agency (ARNA) reported today. It said Libyan Foreign Secretary Abdul Salam Tursi met Tunisian Agriculture Minister Hassan Belkhouja yesterday, and that the two countries had already signed a number of agreements about cooperation in various fields.

Foreigners plunder Mexican gems

* MEXICO CITY, Aug. 10 (AFP). — Mexican deposits of precious stones are being plundered by foreigners, primarily Japanese and Americans, the President of the Mexican Association of Mineralogy and Metallurgy charged yesterday. Jorte Carbajal said the deposits contain rubies, opals, amethysts and turquoise and are located in the states of Oaxaca in the south and Guerrero in the centre. He said the stones are taken from the deposits, smuggled into the United States and polished, and are then sold for prices ranging up to \$1,500 a carat. The situation had been made possible by lack of control over the mines of precious and semi-precious stones, which is costing the government millions of pesos, Mr. Carbajal said.

China, N. Yemen sign trade agreement

* SANAA, Aug. 10 (R). — China yesterday signed an agreement to supply uniforms to North Yemen's armed forces, Radio Sana' reported. The agreement, signed by a visiting Chinese commercial delegation and a government purchasing organisation, also covered Yemeni purchases of other clothing and light industrial goods. No other details were given.

FURNITURE FOR SALE

Two English families are selling up apartment furniture, kitchen equipment and other items. All reasonable prices. Also for sale: Plymouth estate car, 1968 model, duty unpaid. JD 250. Call Mrs. Hart -- 41259 -- or come along to the apartments located a block up from Design Centre next to the British Club.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

One sterling =	1.7390 / 93	U.S. dollars
One dollar =	2.3197 / 3207	West German marks
	2.4465 / 80	Dutch guilders
	2.4160 / 70	Swiss francs
	35.51 / 54	Belgian francs
	4.8940 / 550	French francs
	881.60 / 80	Italian lire
	266.00 / 10	Japanese yen
	4.3925 / 65	Swedish crowns
	5.2710 / 40	Norwegian crowns
	6.0100 / 30	Danish crowns

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices advanced dramatically Wednesday on the New York Stock Exchange, where the industrial average gained nearly eight points in moderate trading.

Analysts attributed the upward trend to a technical correction after the broad declines of past sessions and also to the announcement of a moderate advance in retail sales in July.

Advances outnumbered declines at the close by a wide 508 to 423 margin.

At the close, the industrial average closed at 387.54, a gain of 7.62 points; Transat at 322.20, a gain at 1.32; utilities at 115.61, a gain of 0.32. 18,250,000 shares changed hands, of which 510,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Light profit-taking made for a mixed tendency Wednesday but the undertone was firm, dealers said. Initially the market firmed after July banking statistics indicated money supply growth was on target.

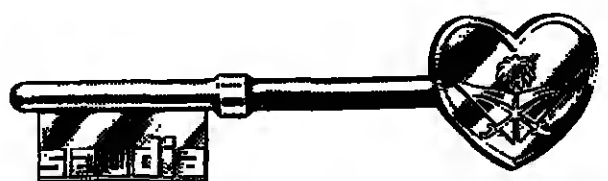
At 15:00 hrs the F.T. index was down 2.1 at 479.7. Government bonds were between 1/8 to 1/2 points firmer having risen up to 3/4 initially. Equity leaders eased, but isolated issues firmed.

Gold shares were slightly lower and U.S. and Canadian shares were dull.

Price of gold closed in London Wednesday at \$345.86/oz.

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2 women missionaries killed in Rhodesia

SALISBURY, Aug. 10 (Agencies). — Two white women missionaries were shot dead by black nationalist guerrillas who attacked a Roman Catholic Mission station in southwestern Rhodesia, a Rhodesian government spokesman said today.

Missionaries working nearby said a band of eight guerrillas demanding money chased nurses through St. Paul's Mission yesterday and forced patients from their beds.

One nursing sister — the only white at the remote mission to survive the attack — said black nurses were threatened with rape.

A spokesman for nearby St. Luke's Mission named the dead woman as German-born Dr. Johanna Decker, 59, from Munich, and Sister Ferdinand, an Austrian who recently volunteered for mission work in Rhodesia after a term of duty in South Africa.

Dr. Decker had worked in the Rhodesian bush country for more than 20 years.

The guerrillas — part of nationalist forces fighting for black majority rule in Rhodesia — entered St. Paul's yesterday afternoon, terrifying nurses and patients with Soviet-made weapons, Rhodesian military sources said.

The white nursing sister, whose name was withheld for fear of reprisals, told reporters the raiders punched and assaulted black nurses, threatening them with rape.

Dr. Johanna Davies of St. Luke's said the guerrillas de-

manded money and Dr. Decker offered them all that was in the cash box. But the men said it was not enough.

"Dr. Decker said she would get more from the house and as she turned to leave, the terrorists opened fire and shot her in the back," said Dr. Davies, who is also German.

"I believe the other sister was shot in the same way because she could not provide more money," Dr. Davies said. "This is a terrible thing to happen, I can hardly believe it."

Black mission staff fled into the bush during the attack. The sole white survivor raised the alarm when the guerrillas left.

Rhodesian troops began a manhunt for the raiders, who were said by the military sources to have spent several hours in a beerhall before the incident.

The mission is in the Lupane area of southwestern Rhodesia which according to the sources has been heavily infiltrated by guerrillas supporting Mr. Joshua Nkomo, co-leader with Mr. Robert Mugabe of the Patriotic Front nationalist group.

Last weekend guerrillas attacked the Regina Mundi Mission in the Lupane area, robbing mission staff. Austrian-born Rudi Kogler, 45, a building contractor who was at the scene, shot dead nine guerrillas before being killed by other raiders.

Last February seven white missionaries were killed at St. Paul's Catholic Mission near

Mtoko in northeastern Rhodesia during a raid blamed by Rhodesian authorities on black nationalist guerrillas.

In Vienna, Catholic Church officials said the two victims of the latest missionary attack were shot dead as they tried to shield their patients from attack.

The officials said the guerrillas told Dr. Decker that she must close the mission hospital.

The church authorities said she and Sister Ferdinand, 53, were shot at close range as they stood between their patients and the guerrillas.

The nurse, whose original name was Miss Anna Pioner, came from a Catholic order in southern Austria and moved to St. Paul's from South Africa about six months ago.

Rhodesia denies attacking Botswana military base

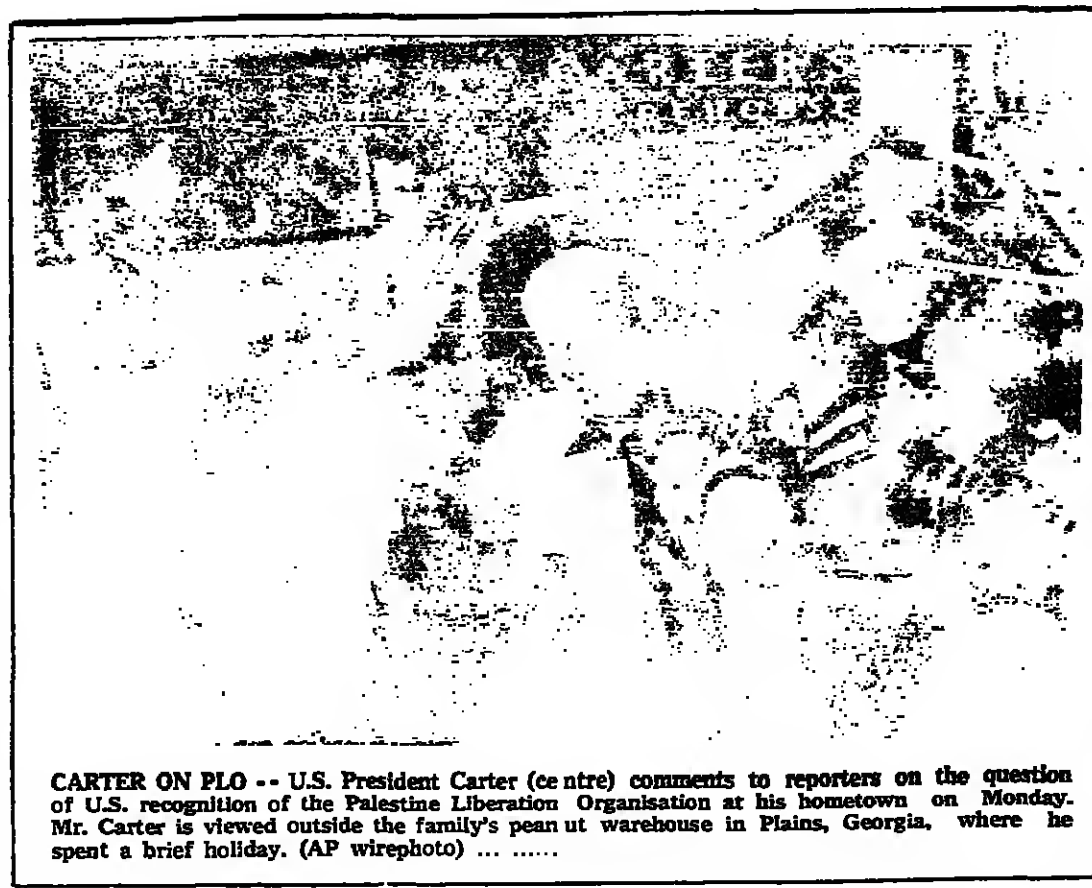
In a separate development, a Rhodesian army spokesman in Salisbury today denied reports from Gaborone, Botswana, that some 150 Rhodesian troops yesterday attacked a military base across the border in Botswana but were repulsed by Botswana forces.

The Rhodesians attacked the base at Kazungula near the point where Rhodesia, Botswana, Zambia and Namibia meet, using armoured vehicles and large and small calibre weapons, a statement by the Botswana government said yesterday.

They said earthquakes were still rumbling round the base of the volcano which became active on Sunday and has caused damage to farm land estimated at 10 billion yen (\$30 million).

Officials said they had lost count of the number of eruptions which have tumbled thousands of hectares into an ash and rock strewn wilderness.

No casualties have been ca-



CARTER ON P.L.O. — U.S. President Carter (centre) comments to reporters on the question of U.S. recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation at his hometown on Monday. Mr. Carter is viewed outside the family's peanut warehouse in Plains, Georgia, where he spent a brief holiday. (AP wirephoto) ...

Japanese volcano quietens down but more eruptions may follow

SAPPORO, Japan, Aug. 10 (R). Volcanic eruptions from Mount Usu in northern Japan ceased today but meteorological officials warned more cascades of rock and ash from its 725 metre high mouth could be on the way.

They said earthquakes were still rumbling round the base of the volcano which became active on Sunday and has caused damage to farm land estimated at 10 billion yen (\$30 million).

Officials said they had lost count of the number of eruptions which have tumbled thousands of hectares into an ash and rock strewn wilderness.

No casualties have been ca-

used but about 6,000 tourists and residents have been evacuated from nearby resorts and towns.

Troops last night went to the help of 200 people virtually cut off in a village by drafts of ash and black smoke from the mountain.

Debris from the eruptions has fallen on Sapporo and other towns more than 100 kms. from Mount Usu.

The fall of ash and rocks has turned two resorts in the volcano's foothills into virtual ghost towns and police were sent in to protect property.

In nearby villages, people who stayed behind to protect their homes took shelter in schools and government build-

ings during eruptions.

Police said water supplies in some areas were dwindling and added that fresh supplies were being brought in by troops.

Railway lines and many roads in the area were blocked by tons of ash and debris.

Three have been about 10 major eruptions on Mount Usu since 1611, killing and injuring more than 100 people. The last eruption was in 1944.

The PNA spokesman said

When the strike was first announced on Monday, some reports said that it would be held throughout the nation.

But Prof. Ghafur Ahmed, Secretary General of the PNA, said yesterday that only Lahore would be affected.

The PNA said the strike was being held to protest against the "hooliganism of Bhutto's men."

NEW DELHI, Aug. 10 (AFP).

Indian Foreign Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee yesterday denied opposition accusations in parliament that the country's foreign policy has subtly and slightly shifted, and maintained India will not yield to pressure from anyone.

Speaking in a foreign policy debate in the upper house of the Indian parliament, Mr. Vajpayee added, however: "Our policy is not static, but dynamic. Foreign policy will be flexible so that it is capable of coping with changing situations in the world."

Of India's nuclear policy, he said India will not allow inspection of any of its atomic plants "built with its own genius" under any circumstances.

Atomic plants built with American and Canadian co-operation were, however, open to scrutiny under international law, he said.

India refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty because the treaty was discriminatory and unequal, Mr. Vajpayee added.

Turning to Indian relations with the big powers, Mr. Vajpayee described relations with the Soviet Union as "very intimate". The Soviet Union had been India's ally in time of need and "we want to maintain this friendship."

However, he went on: "This cannot preclude India entering into such friendships with any other country."

Of the United States, in this

PNA strike cancelled Bhutto to offer public prayer at Lahore shrine

LAHORE, Pakistan, Aug. 10 (Agencies). — Former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto plans to make a public appearance here today despite the violence that surrounded his arrival on Monday.

Sources in his Pakistan People's Party said Mr. Bhutto, ousted in a military coup five weeks ago, would visit the mausoleum of the 1,000-year-old Moslem saint Dada Ganj Bakhsh, who is reputed to grant success to those who pray for it.

Maulana Mufti Mahmud, who leads Mr. Bhutto's opponents in the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA), claimed in a meeting last night that the former prime minister wanted to create disturbances to sabotage elections scheduled for Oct. 18.

But the alliance called off a general strike planned to take place in Lahore today after the army command had promised to deal severely with those responsible for Monday's violence.

When the strike was first announced on Monday, some reports said that it would be held throughout the nation.

But Prof. Ghafur Ahmed, Secretary General of the PNA, said yesterday that only Lahore would be affected.

The PNA said the strike was being held to protest against the "hooliganism of Bhutto's men."

The PNA spokesman said

three alliance officials were attacked by crowds welcoming Mr. Bhutto to Lahore on Monday. The former premier was making his first visit to the city since being released from detention by the army government.

Mr. Bhutto yesterday let it be known that he "regretted" the disturbances provoked by his arrival but said that they were "beyond his control".

The opposition's renunciation of a potentially explosive situation, observers here believed, Mr. Bhutto's visit to the shrine today was expected to pass without incident following a severe army reprimand to leaders of his People's Party.

The army which is trying to reduce political tension before the elections, threatened stiff punishment "without fear or pity" to those breaking the present ban on political activity and demonstrations. Punishments would include jail sentences and floggings.

Monday's violence, in which 13 people were injured and 43 arrested, presented the gravest challenge to the army's authority since its July coup.

Mr. Bhutto, now fighting for his political career, was reported yesterday to have cancelled his appointments because of stomach upset.

But party sources said today he was meeting prospective candidates for the elections before visiting the shrine.

Indian foreign minister rejects accusations of shifts in policy

context, Mr. Vajpayee said that the administration of President Jimmy Carter had extended the hand of friendship and "we have decided to accept it."

With China, he went on, India had exchanged envoys and established trade relations. But he warned: "We have to see how things turn out. Our intention is to normalise relations with China. Once relations are normalised then the process of making them friendly will begin."

There was no question of India abandoning its policy of non-alignment, the foreign minister also said.

Turning to relations closer to home he said India was normalising its relations with

Pakistan and that, but for the internal troubles Pakistan was experiencing, this normalisation process would have been completed. He hoped to see a stable and prosperous Pakistan and welcomed the idea of early elections there.

With Bangladesh, Mr. Vajpayee said, India intends to reach agreement on the sharing of the Ganges waters on the basis of "give and take" and both sides would have to make sacrifices. No agreement would be arrived at with Dacca under pressure, he added.

He described India's relations with Nepal as very friendly and added that after his recent visit to Kathmandu these relations had become "much sweeter".

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Joint Thai-Malaysian border areas agreed

* **BETONG, South Thailand, Aug. 10 (AFP).** — The Malaysian army is to establish a permanent presence inside Thai territory as part of joint Thai-Malaysian efforts to wipe out guerrillas in the area. Malaysian army units will be based in Betong, Weng and Sadao and will carry out operations together with Thai army or border patrol police units in selected "target" areas. The decision to station Malaysian army units was taken in the light of the experience of the four joint operations undertaken this year which proved that a continuous presence of troops would be essential if the guerrillas are to be cut off from their civilian supporters. Though these operations have disrupted guerrilla bases, logistics and supply networks, it was believed that they would be able to re-establish their bases if they are not continuously harassed and kept on the run. The combined troops will also organise civic action projects to provide basic amenities to the villages and improve their living conditions. Malaysia is also expected to help Thai authorities strengthen the intelligence gathering system in border areas.

MOSCOW: U.S. hand at Belgrade was forced

* **MOSCOW, Aug. 10 (AFP).** — The government newspaper Izvestia said yesterday that the pro-detente position of certain Western statesmen had forced the United States to adopt a conciliatory position at the preliminary Belgrade conference. In a commentary on the "success" of the conference, Izvestia said that "the recent statements favouring detente" by British Foreign Minister David Owen, French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and West German Social Democratic Party chief and ex-Chancellor Willy Brandt "could not but induce more discretion among those who were displaying particular stubbornness and a lack of conciliatory spirit during the Belgrade talks."

Antarctic temperature above freezing

* **CANBERRA, Aug. 10 (R).** — The mid-winter temperature at Australia's southern tip in the Antarctic has risen above freezing in August for the first time in 24 years, Science Minister James Webster said today. He said a change in the upper atmosphere air flow had caused the mercury to climb to 1.4 degrees centigrade on Aug. 1.

Blood and ashes on Pentagon's steps

* **WASHINGTON, Aug. 10 (AFP).** — Some 50 demonstrators yesterday spread blood and ashes on the steps of the Pentagon to mark the 32nd anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. The demonstrators represented several anti-war and anti-bomb organisations. Their protest was broken up by police when they tried to block entry to the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Defence Department. Police arrested 17 people.

One-way traffic on Venice's Grand Canal

* **VENICE, Aug. 10 (R).** — A one-way system went into operation on the Grand Canal here today in a scheme designed to ease traffic congestion and reduce destructive wave action. The experimental system, which city officials say will eliminate up to 40 per cent of the heavy swell created by motor launches plying in both directions, will run until Sept. 30. It was introduced following a mass demonstration by gondoliers who complained that it was increasingly difficult to handle their craft in the heavy wash, which is also visibly eroding canal side buildings.

Charlie Chaplin in rare public appearance

* **VEVEY, Switzerland, Aug. 10 (AFP).** — Charlie Chaplin made one of his rare public appearances at a garden party yesterday for the Vevey Wine Festival. Sir Charles, now 88 but apparently in good health, made a brief appearance in a wheelchair to greet about 100 guests. The festival is held only once every 25 years.

Denktash protests British stand on election of Cypriot president

NICOSIA, Aug. 10 (AFP). — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash yesterday protested against a British Foreign Office announcement that Britain would recognise the elected successor to the late President Makarios as president of the whole of Cyprus, the TAF news agency reported.

Mr. Denktash, President of the Turkish "Federated State

of Cyprus," set up in the northern part of the island after the 1974 Turkish military intervention, made his protest at a meeting at his residence with British High Commissioner in Nicosia MacDonald Gordon.

Mr. Denktash indicated that the law under which the projected presidential election would take place "did not conform" to the 1960 C

tion, the agency said.

He added that the British government had itself in its time protested to Greek-Cypriot authorities that such a law was invalid.

Mr. Denktash also reaffirmed that the successor to President Makarios, who died last Wednesday, would only be leader of the Greek-Cypriots.

U.S. ready to discuss Cyprus

In a separate development, American diplomat Clark Clifford said here yesterday that he was ready to open discussions with both sides in the Cypriot conflict, but only if asked.

Prior to his departure from Cyprus, where he had attended Monday's funeral for Archbishop Makarios, Mr. Clifford said he would stay in touch with both sides and emphasised that Washington's intention was to pursue with all possible means efforts to find a solution to the Cypriot problem.

Mr. Clifford, who held talks in Athens, Ankara and Nicosia last February, said that the island's difficulties were a continual threat to stability and peace in the region.

The United States would continue to recognise the Republic of Cyprus. It had before, Mr. Clifford said, adding that he hoped neither side would take any action which would increase dangers in the delicate situation.

Weizman: Israeli defence cuts will not hurt army's readiness

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 (R). — Defence Minister Ezer Weizman promised yesterday that the government's substantial cuts in Israel's defence budget would not diminish the army's state of readiness.

He told military correspondents that the army Chief-of-Staff, Lt-Gen. Mordechai Gur, had agreed to the cuts announced last month.

Mr. Weizman said there would be no cutback in spending on Israel's warning system, the army training programme, maintenance of military vehicles and the individual soldier's living conditions.

But local army purchases had been cut by \$62.2 million, imports for the armed forces by \$55 million and military building and construction by \$15.3 million this year, he said.

Earlier yesterday, Mr. Weizman announced the establishment of a special joint committee of army and Defence Ministry officials to reorganise the army's ground forces, whose structure had remained basically the same since 1952.

Reserve Maj. Gen. Israel Tal, a former Armoured Corps commander, was appointed head of the committee, which has been asked to examine the possibility of granting the different services greater autonomy, Mr. Weizman said.

One of the possibilities being studied is whether to follow the American example by having separate chiefs-of-staff for the army, the navy and the air force under the control of a joint chiefs-of-staff committee, Defence Ministry sources said.

Key congress of Chinese Communist Party may already have started without official notice

PEKING, Aug. 10 (R). — The 11th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party is imminent or may already be underway, reliable sources here said today.

Chinese officials declined to comment and have indicated that the congress — the first since Mao Tse-tung's death — will not be announced until it is over.

The sources have given prior notice of important meetings here in the past.

There have been clear signs of preparations. Politburo members from all over China gathered here last week and radio stations have reported conferences in the provinces to elect delegates.

The congress will discuss

numerous top appointments, revise the party constitution and review the new economic plan. A Central Committee plenum last month made clear it will also formally purge followers of the "gang of four" radicals.

Since the plenum, newspapers have carried daily exhortations to "usher in the victorious convocation of the party's 11th national congress with practical actions."

Today, Peking's Gungming daily published a whole page of background information on previous congresses.

The section dealing with the last congress in 1973 omitted reference to a key speech by Mr. Wang Hung-wen, one of the "gang of four" toppled

last October.

At the 1973 congress, radicals strengthened their position in the party, with Mr. Wang rising from obscurity to become a vice chairman.

This was ignored by the Gungming article which instead noted that the congress had elected Chairman Hua Kuo-feng a member of the Central Committee.

The 11th congress is expected to approve the more pragmatic "order and economic development" policy China has followed since Mao's death last September.

This was underlined last month when the purged moderate leader, Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping, was restored to all his old posts — including that of party vice chairman.

USSR arms experts reportedly in Libya

BEIRUT, Aug. 10 (R). — An independent Lebanese newspaper reported today that a team of 50 Soviet military experts arrived in the Libyan Jamahiriyah earlier this month, following that country's armed clashes with Egypt in late July. Quoting diplomatic sources in Beirut, the daily Al-Bayraq said the team were experts in rockets, aircraft guidance and sophisticated weapons. It added that the experts were deployed in three centres which were not identified.

USSR allows Mrs. Sakharov to have operation in Italy

MOSCOW, Aug. 10 (R). — Soviet authorities today gave permission to Mrs. Yelena Sakharov, wife of Soviet human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov, to make her second trip to Italy for an eye operation.

"This is extremely important for us, and we think it is a

sensible decision by the authorities," Dr. Sakharov told reporters outside the Moscow visa office.

Mrs. Sakharov, 54, said she had been given a visa valid for 60 days, and expected to leave at the end of the month.

The operation, for glaucoma of her right eye, would be performed by Prof. Renato Frezzotti, a Siena eye specialist, she said.

Mrs. Sakharov, who uses her maiden name, Yelena Bonner, travelled to Italy for a similar operation on her left eye nearly two years ago. Before returning she collected her husband's Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo on her husband's behalf.

S. Africa to develop own arms

PRETORIA, Aug. 10 (R). — Defence Minister Pieter Botha declared last night South Africa was going all-out to develop its own arms industry. Asked to comment on a statement by officials in Paris that the French government had extended its arms embargo on South Africa to all types of military equipment, including warships, Mr. Botha said: "It is not South Africa's policy to say from whom or to whom it is buying or selling arms. In the meantime, however, we are doing our utmost to ensure the rapid development of our own arms industry alongside other industries."

He added he would make a further statement "in my own time" on the question of warships.

While China awaits Vance its media criticises U.S. Middle East peace effort

PEKING, Aug. 10 (AFP). — Two weeks before a visit to China by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance the American position on the Middle East question was yesterday strongly criticised by Peking which considers Mr. Vance's current tour as aimed at strengthening the U.S. position at the expense of the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, Mr. Leonard Woodcock, the new head of the American Liaison Office in Peking, had a half-hour meeting with one of China's top leaders, Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien. The meeting was in the framework of a series of courtesy visits carried out by Mr. Woodcock since his arrival here on July 26, an American source said without giving further details.

The official New China News Agency, commenting on Mr. Vance's tour of five Arab countries and Israel, yesterday described the American position on the question of a withdrawal by Israel from occupied territories as "ambiguous."

According to the Agency, the U.S. administration admitted that Israel "should withdraw" from occupied Arab territories, but stressed at the same time "that Israel's exact borders must be agreed in the negotiations" and that "security arrangements on all fronts satisfactory to all parties must be made."

The word "ambiguous" was also used to describe the position expressed on March 9

by President Carter when he made a distinction between Israel's "borders" and its "defence lines". The agency said: "Obviously this is an attempt to perpetuate Israel's armed occupation of Arab territories."

The Chinese commentator also denounced the fact that the American government has "persistently refused to recognise in clear terms that the Palestinian people's national rights should be restored" and to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The agency went on: "The U.S. government's attitude reveals its attempt to continue to support Israel's aggression while trying to earn the 'confidence' of the Arab countries which are in confrontation with Israel, so as to strengthen the U.S. position in its rivalry with the Soviet Union in the Middle East."

The Middle East question was one of the subjects raised in recent talks here between United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and the Chinese leaders.

Mr. Vance may bring the latter the latest news on the issue when he visits Peking from Aug. 22 to 28. The visit will centre around the continuation of normalisation of Sino-American relations which started in February 1972.

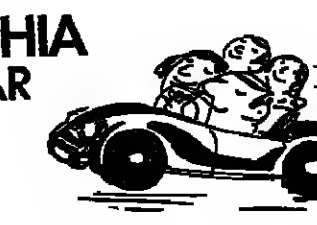
Mr. Woodcock, who is having a series of meetings with Chinese leaders, is believed to be drawing up a report on the question of normalisation for President Carter.



We extend our warmest congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of his silver jubilee

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